

## Contributions

### SIGNS OF APOSTLESHIP

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"Apostleship signifies, *The office of the apostles; which was, to preach the gospel, baptize, work miracles, plant and confirm churches and ordain ministers.*" Matt. 10:1.

"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." 7th and 8th verses, "And as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils. Freely ye have received, freely give." Luke 6:13, "And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples, and of them he chose twelve whom he called apostles."

Mark 3:13-15. "And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would, and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils." Math. 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 14:23, "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed."

Apostle signifies, one sent on a special mission, for a special purpose and work. As also specially called of God to fulfill that mission and purpose.

Under the first covenant in the days of Moses nearly fifteen hundred years before the coming of Christ, "The Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, when Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, shew a miracle for you, then thou shalt say to Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. Exodus 7:8-9. Thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs, Exodus 4:17.

And if the Egyptians do not believe the first sign, they will believe the second," Exodus 4:8.

The terms miracle and sign were used synonymously under the first covenant, and were continued as such during the early ages of Christianity by the writers of the Holy Scriptures.

A miracle, "Is a supernatural operation performed alone by the power of God." John 3:2, Nicodemus said: "Thou art a teacher come from God, for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." John 9:16, referring to Christ giving sight to the man that was born blind, some said, "How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?" Acts 2:22, "Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves know."

Acts 15:12, "Then all the multitude kept silence and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them." The power of God thru Christ, and the apostles "confirmed the doctrine which he taught by a train of incontestable miracles."

They were so great in their nature, so real and solid in their proof, so divine in the manner of performing them, by the power of his will, so holy in their end, to confirm a doctrine most becoming the wisdom and other glorious attributes of God and for the accomplishment of the prophecies concerning the Messiah, whose coming was foretold to be with miraculous healing benefits, that there was the greatest assurance that none without the omnipotent hand of God could do them.

The magicians and astrologers performed divers wonders in Egypt, but they were outdone by Moses, to convince the spectators, that he was sent from a power infinitely superior to that of evil spirits. Real miracles that are contrary to the order, and exceed the power of nature, can only be produced by creating power, and were wrought to give credit to those who were sent from God. And when God permits false miracles to be done by seducers, that would thereby obtain authority and credit among men, the deception is not invincible, for it is foretold expressly, to give us warning, that the man of sin shall come with lying wonders after the working of Satan. II Thess. 2:9, "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, but the heavenly doctrine of the gospel has been confirmed by real miracles, incomparably greater than all the strange things done to give credit to doctrines opposed to it." Mark 16:20, "And they (the eleven apostles) (in parenthesis mine,) went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Hebrews 2:4, God also bearing them (the apostles) (in parenthesis mine,) witness both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts (distributions, margin) of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will."

Acts 5:12, "And by the hands of the Apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people." The apostle Paul testifies concerning his Apostleship as follows: II Cor. 12:12, "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs and wonders, and mighty deeds."

Under the ages preceding the second covenant there were many miracles wrought by the power of God thru his people as follows: in Egypt 12; in the wilderness 10; in all by Moses and Aaron 22.

In Canaan under Joshua, 2; under the Kings, 2; by Elijah, 5; by Elisha, 12; recorded by Isaiah, 2. During the captivity, 2; miscellaneous, 3. Making in all up to the Christian age a total of 50.

The Christ of God himself wrought about

36. The seventy disciples sent out two by two, the twelve apostles, Stephen, Philip, Barnabas and Paul, thru all of these and perhaps thru others the Lord wrought many miracles during the early ages of Christianity. All the miraculous manifestations of God were needful in order to establish his church in all her tenets, precepts and principles, that God's children should not in the least doubt the power of God to save them from sin, keep them from the power of sin, and from the consequences of a life spent in the service of sin.

We must however not overlook this fact that the old serpent, the devil also manifested his power thru his people anciently by miraculous manifestations. See Ex. 7:11. Where the magicians and astrologer's rods were turned into serpents; but God showed his power over the devil inasmuch as Moses' serpent swallowed up the serpents of the magicians. Ex. 8:7. The devil thru the magicians brought frogs. The Christ of God predicted that there should be false christs and false prophets. See Math. 24:24. "For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Rev. 13:13, 14, "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth, by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast." Rev. 16:14, "For they are the spirits of devils working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev. 19:20, "The beast was taken and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." It requires somewhat careful scrutinizing in order to fully discriminate between those of God, and those of the devil.

God has placed upon record in the Holy Bible all that are necessary to authenticate and confirm his word and establish the Christian religion, and the faith of all believers in the Christ of God who hath redeemed us by his blood, and afforded us a hope that reaches within the veil whither our forerunner has entered for us.

The apostles who were chosen, called out and ordained by the great head of the Church of the living God, which is the pillar and ground of the truth, were specially chosen, called out and taught to be the witnesses of Christ, they were both eye and ear witnesses having been with him from the time of the preaching of the baptism of John until he was taken up from them and ascended to heaven. They could, and did, and do testify of his life, death, resurrection and ascension to heaven; therefore could be his witnesses "In Jerusalem and in all Judea, and